SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER 2021

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by ..... [your name, call sign, and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at http://www.sarl.org.za while the text bulletin can be downloaded from https://sarlnewsbulletin.wordpress.com/. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

THE NARC CLOSED OVER THE HOLIDAY PERIOD

THE COUNCIL STRATEGIC MEETING

and

THE DECEMBER RADIO ZS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

THE NARC CLOSED OVER THE HOLIDAY PERIOD

The SARL Office at the National Amateur Radio Centre will close on Wednesday afternoon 15 December 2021 for the Christmas holidays and reopen again on Wednesday 12 January 2022.

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING

Today, Sunday 5 December, is International Volunteers Day. Volunteers generously give their time and dedication just to make non-profit and charity organization events or programmes run smoothly.

The South African Radio League depends on volunteers to do the day-to-day work of running the organisation. Be it as a member of a Club committee, RAE lecturer, invigilator, assessor, repeater custodian, bulletin reader, newsletter editor, flea market seller, member of a working group, mentor for a young radio amateur, Club handyman, etc., etc. Be assured that Council, who are also volunteers, appreciates your selfless effort and the important role you play for the SARL and Amateur Radio in South Africa. Thank you, you are a star!

THE COUNCIL STRATEGIC MEETING

The SARL Council met at the NARC on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 November for the end of the year strategic meeting. It was decided that the 2022 SARL National Convention will take place on Saturday 23 April 2022 as a virtual event. We do not know what the pandemic is planning for 2022. The closing date

for SARL Award nominations, motions, and nominations to serve on Council is midnight on Monday 31 January 2022 and must be sent to secretary@sarl.org.za.

Willem Weideman, ZS6X has stepped down as the SARL QSL Manager after 19 years of service and Gert du Plessis, ZR6GRT has been appointed as the SARL QSL Manager. Johan van Aarde, ZS2I has stepped down as the ZS1, ZS2 and ZS5 sub-manager. Abe Swiegelaar, ZS1ZS has been appointed as the new sub-manager for these 3 call areas. Dennis, ZS4BS continues as the ZS3 and ZS4 sub-manager. Thank you very much Willem and Johan for your sterling work!

Andy Cairns, ZS6ADY has been appointed as a Forum Moderator. Further Council has approved an upgrade to the DMR Brandmeister Server Hosting. Council also thanks the committee of the West Rand ARC for the dinner on Friday evening.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

THE DECEMBER RADIO ZS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

The December 2021 issue of Radio ZS is available for download from the League website. Read the President's message for the festive season and Johan, ZU3JO tells you why he is on the front cover! We look at the Information Programme for Disabled Radio Amateurs and the wide-ranging agenda the IARU Administrative Council addressed in a virtual meeting. The Sandton ARC tells about their fox hunting afternoon, while the Grade 6 pupils from Prieska were on the air with ZS3ZU. We also look at the 3DA0WW eSwatini 2021 DXpedition and the BACAR-9 Balloon Chase 30 October 2021. And more in this 72-page issue.

CONTEST NEWS

The ARRL 10 metre contest will be on the air from 00:00 UTC on Saturday 11 December to 23:59 UTC on Sunday 12 December, but you may only operate 36 hours out of the 48 hours. The aim is to work as many stations as possible on 10 metres using SSB and CW. The exchange for ZS stations is an RS or RST report and a serial number, while stations in the USA, Canada, and Mexico will give an RS or RST and their state or province. Find the rules on http://www.arrl.org/10-meter.

Twenty-three logs were received for the sixth and last leg of the SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint. Load shedding did play a role!

1st The West Rand ARC – 572 points

2nd The Northern Cape ARC – 465 points

3rd The Pretoria ARC – 93 points

Individual

1st Gerhard, ZS3TG – 106

2nd Hans, ZS6KR – 93

3rd Phillip, ZS6PVT – 87

After the six legs:

1st The West Rand ARC – 3 554 points

2nd The Boland ARC – 1 439 points

3rd The Northern Cape ARC – 994 points

Individual

1st Romeo, ZS6ARQ – 468 points

2nd Hans, ZS6KR – 438 points

3rd Phillip, ZS6PVT – 350 points

The results of the SARL VHF/UHF SSB contest have been released.

1st Carl Minne, ZS6CBQ – 7 513 points

2nd Christo Greyling, ZR6AUI – 6 340 points

3rd Kobus Boshoff, ZS6BOS – 1 463 points

The results of both legs of the contest

1st Carl Minne, ZS6CBQ – 54 888 points

2nd Christo Greyling, ZR6AUI – 54 718 points

3rd Pierre Lindeque, ZS4PF (SK) – 25 222 points

Eight logs were received for the SARL Newbie Contest held on Saturday 20 November 2021.

1st Errol Holder, ZS6EH – 219 points

2nd Pieter Nel, ZS3PN – 180 points

3rd Chris Avenant, ZS6CPA – 179 points

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There are currently two active sunspot regions visible and there is a small possibility of minor flaring. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 12. The 15 to 30 m bands will especially during the late afternoons provide some DX fun. For more information, please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

Today – International Volunteers Day

11 and 12 December – the ARRL 10 metre contest

16 December – the Day of Reconciliation

21 December – the Summer Solstice at 17:59 CAT

21 and 22 December – the Ursids Meteor Showers

25 December – Christmas Day

26 December – Family Day

27 December – Public holiday

31 December – the end of YOTA Month, the CQ DX Marathon and the Bands Alive Ultra-Marathon

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

The SARL Office at the National Amateur Radio Centre will close on Wednesday afternoon 15 December 2021 for the Christmas holidays and reopen again on Wednesday 12 January 2022.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to be included in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments, and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin written by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, proofread by Herman Erasmus, ZS6CTA and read by .....

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.